


Pender, Bill (REPS)

From: Dwayne sykes
Sent: Friday, 8 June 2007 8:00 AM
To: Committee, Aff (REPS)
Subject: Honey Industry

Submission No: 44
Date Received: 8/6/07
Secretary: 

Dear sir

i have been a beekeeper for the last 30 years, i have seen good times and bad as a beekeeper, but this is the way it is when dealing with nature. As a commercial beekeeper i employ two young boys one of them is 18 while the other is 21, which one of them is my son. I am writing this submission because we need real change as the honey industry is in turmoil. On one hand we have government departments interfering with the use of our natural resources e.g forestry and national parks. They are making it almost impossible to use the resources that are there. When the national park take over forestry's they restrict the use of the forestry to the bee industry and with out this resources it makes it almost impossible to make a living. It is important to look at the bee industry as a whole, we need real change... We need to have a honey council that promotes Australian honey. We need that any levys paid will promote honey in general. I would like to look at the T.V and see a ad for honey, Not anyones honey but Australian honey so then we may focus on honey itself. If we do not take steps to support the honey industry our industry will be lost. We need to get things in place now to make a difference. How can an industry support the price of \$2.00 a kilo for honey from the beekeeper when it is on the self for \$8.00-\$10.00 per kilo, how can we be happy as an industry when honey production is below cost, How can we sit back and let our honey levy's promote nothing? So i would like to see some real change. As i am 48 years old i have seen many changes in our industry. how as an industry do we expect young Australians to come to an industry where the future is uncertain. We need to establish an industry that is on an even keel. If we don't well pay dearly, in the next coming years we will need the bees to do more pollination work this will be most important for Australian agriculture. We have a good export market with packaged bees our honey is up there with the best in the world with a green image world wide so its not all doom and gloom, We need to get together as an industry to start to make a change, so as an industry we can look back in years to come to see a healthy honey industry. We should be looking at an apprentice system so we can get young Australians to come into our industry. The average age in our industry is around 58 years old we need to have action now because none of us beekeepers are going to live forever. We need a forum so that we can get leaders in our industry from across the board to make steps to take the honey industry forward, i think the government is on the right track by looking into the honey industry this is the first step in the chain of change.

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